

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill #312,
An Act Concerning the Expansion of Connecticut Paid Sick Days
-submitted by Father John Cooney, Litchfield, CT

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Father John Cooney. I am a retired priest and I live in Litchfield, Connecticut.

I support Senate Bill #312, *An Act Concerning the Expansion of Connecticut Paid Sick Days*. My reason for supporting Senate Bill #312 is simple. Compare two workers doing the same job, one working for a large company, the other for a small company. Both jobs are equally important for the stability of their families and our economy here in Connecticut. Yet one worker receives the benefit of 5 sick days each year, the other does not.

I believe both workers in the example above should be treated equally when it comes to the issue of sick days.

I am a strong supporter of domestic workers and their rights on the job. They have long been excluded from many basic labor rights in our state. They are currently excluded from the state's sick day law. Domestic workers do the most essential of services – they take care of our children in their capacity as nannies; they take care of our elders in their own homes who are unable to take care of themselves; they clean our homes every week. Domestic workers are largely women, often with children and elderly family members of their own to take care of when they go home at night. They get sick just like the rest of us. They deserve five sick days a year and so does every other worker in the state.

The paid sick day law in Connecticut needs to be expanded to include all workers. No worker should experience separate and unequal laws regarding their working conditions. The time to include all workers as recipients of the benefit of 5 sick days per year.

Thank you for including Senate Bill #312 in the public hearing process. I urge you to vote in favor of it when it comes before you for a vote.